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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Inside Region 3

*Information from the Accomplishment  
Reporting System*

## Service Proposal Would Grant States More Control of Resident Canada Geese

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing the creation of a new regulation to allow state wildlife management agencies to actively manage populations of resident Canada geese that cause personal and public property damage and, in some cases, pose a threat to public health and safety.

Under the proposed alternative identified in the draft Environmental Impact Statement released Mar. 4, the Service would grant states the authority to undertake approved population control strategies, such as nest and egg destruction, trapping and culling programs, and expanded hunting opportunities.

"The Service believes that the problems caused by resident Canada geese can be best addressed at the state level," said Service Director Steve Williams. "To that end, we are committed to providing state wildlife management agencies with as much flexibility as possible to address the issue."

The draft EIS evaluates a range of alternatives in relation to their ability to reduce and stabilize resident Canada goose populations, reduce conflicts with humans and minimize impacts to property and human health and safety. Aside from the proposed alternative, the EIS analyzes other alternatives, including continuing current management practices unchanged;



-USFWS Photo

Resident (non-migratory) Canada goose populations have continued to grow in many urban areas. The Service has developed a draft Environmental Impact Statement which, if approved, will allow states greater flexibility in managing local populations of resident geese.

## 5,200 Endangered Pallid Sturgeon Arrive at Neosho National Fish Hatchery

Endangered Pallid Sturgeon arrived at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery on Feb. 26, 2002. Rod May (Assistant Manager) and Nick Starzl (Fishery Biologist) travelled to South Dakota and met with staff from the Miles City Montana State Fish Hatchery to transfer the pallids over to Neosho. There are three family lots totalling 5,200 fish. These fish will be reared to nine inches, tagged with pit tags and stocked into the Lower Missouri River as part of recovery efforts.

Neosho's excellent water quality, closed water system, recirculation system and ability to control water temperature, makes it an optimum place to produce endangered pallid sturgeon, as well as other recovery species.

The hatchery has had great success with lake sturgeon production and expects nothing less with the pallids.

This is a cooperative effort with the Columbia Fisheries Resource Office, Columbia Ecological Services Office, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Neosho National Fish Hatchery. *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

Continued on next page

*Information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System. Includes  
accomplishments for the period Feb. 10 - Mar. 8, 2002*

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## Service Releases Draft EIS on Resident Canada Geese

implementing non-lethal methods such as harassment and habitat management designed to make areas less attractive to geese; expanded hunting opportunities; and creating various depredation orders allowing expanded lethal take of resident geese. A 90-day public comment period on the draft EIS will remain open until May 30, 2002.

Most Canada goose populations are migratory, wintering in the United States and migrating north to summer breeding grounds in the Canadian arctic. But a large availability of habitat, especially in urban and suburban areas where there are park-like open spaces with short grass adjacent to small bodies of water, has resulted in growing numbers of locally-breeding geese that live year round in the lower 48 states.

In temperate climates across the United States, these places provide geese with relatively stable breeding habitat and low numbers of predators. In addition, hunting is usually not allowed in urban and suburban areas, restricting the ability of state and local authorities to control populations using traditional methods. Those resident populations that do migrate often fly only short distances compared to their migratory relatives that breed in Canada. For these reasons, resident Canada goose populations enjoy consistently high reproduction and survival rates.

The Service estimates that there are 3.5 million resident Canada geese in the United States. Resident Canada goose populations in both the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways now exceed 1 million birds each and have increased an average of 14 and 6 percent per year, respectively, over the last 10 years. Indices of resident Canada geese in the Central Flyway

are now approaching 1 million birds and populations in the western portions of the country have shown similar growth rates over the past 10 years.

Resident Canada geese are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and can only be legally taken during a hunting season, unless a special federal permit is obtained from the Service. The Service is in the process of drafting proposed regulations that would authorize the States to implement the proposed alternative and undertake a number of population control and management actions without having to go through the permit process.

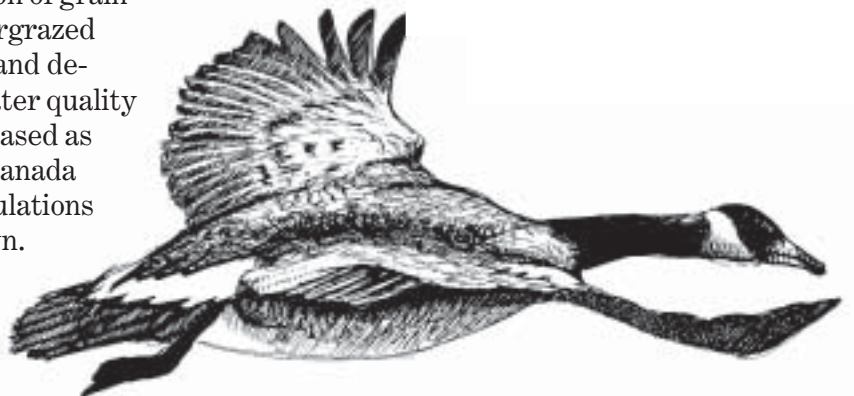
Large flocks of resident Canada geese can denude grassy areas, including parks, pastures, golf courses, lawns, and other landscaped areas where there are ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water nearby. At airports, resident Canada geese have become a significant safety threat, resulting in dangerous takeoff and landing conditions and costly repairs to aircraft. Excessive goose droppings are also a health concern, and have contributed to the temporary closure of public beaches by local health departments in several States. In addition, agricultural and natural resource damage, including depredation of grain crops, overgrazed pastures, and degraded water quality have increased as resident Canada goose populations have grown.

The release of the draft environ-

mental impact statement was announced in the March 1, 2002, Federal Register. The document is the result of a process that began in August 1999. Public input on the alternatives to be considered by the draft environmental impact statement was solicited through Federal Register notices on August 19 and December 30, 1999 and at a series of public meetings held in February and March 2000 across the country.

Written comments concerning the draft EIS should be addressed to the Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms 634 ARLSQ, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, D.C., 20240. Copies of the draft EIS are available at the same address or by calling the Service at 703-358-1714.

The Service will schedule public meetings later this year, and the dates and locations will be announced in the Federal Register in March.



- USFWS Illustration by Bob Savannah

## Great Lakes Stations Join Forces to Host Display at Michigan Outdoorama

Eight stations from the Great Lakes Ecosystem hosted a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service display at Outdoorama, held Feb. 22 - Mar. 3, 2002, in Novi, Mich. Outdoorama is the largest event of its kind in the state of Michigan and is sponsored by Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC). Twenty-seven Service employees and four volunteers staffed the display over the 10-day show.

Service exhibits included the East Lansing PLO "Conserving the Nature of America" display and the Ludington Biological Station's fish tank containing lake sturgeon donated by Genoa National Fish Hatchery and lake trout donated by the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.

An estimated 50,000 people attended the event and many received information about Service programs throughout the Great Lakes area and the upcoming National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial. The

Region 3 blue goose "Puddles" greeted and mingled with children throughout the show and handed out Centennial materials. Children also had an opportunity to decorate their own blue goose to take home or put on display. Another bonus was that the Friends of Shiawassee NWR had their booth next to the FWS one and were able to provide visitors with information on what they can do to help refuges.

Commercial Carpet Corporation (Novi, MI) donated two 10'x10' sections of carpeting and padding to ease wear and tear on the booth workers feet. One of the carpet sections displayed "USFWS" in the center.

Service offices that participated included Ottawa NWR, Shiawassee NWR, Jordan River NFH, Ludington and Marquette Bio. Stations, Alpena FRO, East Lansing PLO and FO.

*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR and Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO*



-USFWS Photos

A young girl hugs "Puddles" the blue goose (volunteer Tim Rawlings), as Dale Ollila (Marquette Bio. Station) hands out stickers educating the public about the 2003 Refuge Centennial at Outdoorama.



Volunteer Tim Rawlings dressed as "Puddles" the Blue Goose poses with a young boy at the Michigan United Conservation Club sponsored boating and fishing show.



Children "flocked" to the Service display at Outdoorama in Novi, Mich., to decorate a blue goose mobile and add it to the growing goose display. Shiawassee NWR's Park Ranger Michelle VanderHaar helped kids get started. Stations from the Great Lakes Ecosystem hosted the display which included an aquarium with live sturgeon and lake trout.



## Missouri Couple, Arkansas Man Plead Guilty to Illegal Trafficking of Tigers

Three individuals indicted on federal wildlife charges last November entered guilty pleas Monday in federal court in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Todd H. Lantz, owner of Lazy L Exotics in Cape Girardeau, his wife Vicki L. Lantz and Freddy M Wilmoth of Gentry, Ark., pleaded guilty to conspiracy and Endangered Species Act charges for illegally trafficking of four endangered tigers in 1998.

Todd H. Lantz of Cape Girardeau, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act, a felony. The maximum penalty for conspiring to violate the Lacey Act, a federal wildlife protection law, is five years in prison and/or fines of up to \$250,000. Vicki L. Lantz, pleaded guilty to aiding in the sale of the four tigers, a misdemeanor violation of the Endangered Species Act. Freddy M. Wilmoth pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the transportation of an endangered species into commerce, also a misdemeanor violation of the Endangered Species Act. The maximum penalty for misdemeanor violations of the Endangered Species Act is one year confinement and/or fines up to \$100,000.

Sentencing for all three defendants is scheduled for May 20.

The three are among five individuals indicted for their roles in the

illegal trafficking of six endangered tigers and five leopards protected by federal law. The indictments were unsealed Nov. 8, 2001 by the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis following a lengthy undercover investigation by agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The five were alleged to have illegally purchased, transported and sold federally-endangered tigers and leopards between January and August 1998. The indictments alleged that in February 1998, Todd Lantz, purchased four tigers from Freddy Wilmoth in Gentry, Ark., and transported them to the 5H Ranch in Cape Girardeau, Mo., with the knowledge the tigers were to be killed. After the tigers were killed and sold, Vicky Lantz prepared federal forms (USDA Form 720) falsely stating the transaction was a donation.

No hearing dates have been set for Stoney Elam of Fort Gibson, Okla., and Tim Rivers of Citra, Fla., the two others charged in the indictments. Indictments allege that in June 1998, Stoney Elam sold two tigers and three leopards in violation of federal wildlife laws. Timothy Rivers, owner of Animals in Motion in Citra, Fla., is alleged to have illegally sold two leopards in August 1998.

Service investigators, working closely with the U.S. Attorney's Offices in Missouri, Illinois and Michigan, uncovered a group of residents and small business owners in the Midwest that allegedly bought and killed exotic tigers, leopards, snow leopards, lions, mountain lions, cougars, mixed breed cats and black bears with the intention of introducing meat and skins into the lucrative animal parts trade. Tigers and snow leopards are listed as "Endangered" under the federal Endangered Species Act. The law also protects leopards, which are classified as either "endangered" or "threatened" depending on the location of the wild population. Although federal regulations allow possession of captive-bred tigers, the regulations stipulate activities involving their use must be to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. It is unlawful to kill the animals for profit, or to sell their hides, parts or meats into interstate commerce.

Service agents were also assisted in the Missouri investigation by law enforcement officers from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

*Scott Flaherty,  
External Affairs*

## Seney National Wildlife Refuge Kicks off Snowy Centennial Celebration

The 11th annual Snowfest at Seney National Wildlife Refuge attracted the largest-ever attendance for the event. The Seney Natural History Association partnered with the refuge to make this year's Snowfest a special centennial celebration. Refuge staff estimate that over 800 visitors attended this year, up from a previous high of 350.

Among the highlights of this year's event were the caribou - 244 people

were able to take a caribou-drawn sleigh ride and learn about woodland caribou, which historically migrated to Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Dog sled rides were also offered and refuge volunteers checked out 148 pairs of snowshoes, on loan from Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the Hiawatha National Forest.

Event fliers, a regional display, and films (on the NWRS, Pelican Island,

and refuges in Hawaii and Alaska) all helped carry the message of the Centennial to visitors throughout the day. Two radio interviews and numerous print press releases and interviews broadcasted the message beyond refuge borders. *Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR*

## Habitat and Public Use Improvements Completed at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

On Feb. 21, 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accepted two completed construction projects at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge. The first project, a 14,000 gallon-per-minute pumping station, will enhance habitat on the 250 acre Gilbert Lake. The second project, also at Gilbert Lake, is a new parking lot designed to address the increased public use this area has experienced in recent years.

The Gilbert Lake Division is 735 acres of backwaters and floodplain forest in Jersey County, Ill. Located just four river miles upstream of the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, the 250-acre Gilbert Lake provides resting and feeding habitat for migrating birds as well as resident wildlife in the heart of the Mississippi Flyway. The new pump station and water control structure will enable refuge staff to more closely mimic the annual flood cycle

of the Illinois River. Annual plant production and water levels suitable for waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds can be more closely controlled.

Gilbert Lake also received a new 10-acre parking lot that addresses a long-standing access problem for refuge visitors.

Prior to the new lot, visitors had to park at nearby Pere Marquette State Park and walk up to three miles to fish in the lake. The other, more common approach, was to park along a busy state highway, often backing into traffic upon leaving. This new parking lot provides a safe, convenient place for refuge visitors to enjoy fishing, hiking, and wildlife observation on the entire 735-acre Gilbert Lake Division. *Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR*

### New Refuges on the River?

Some particularly observant individuals may have noticed a few new national wildlife refuges along the Mississippi River in parts of Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. These new refuges are actually the former districts of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

The new refuge names are:

**Great River NWR** (formerly Annada District)

**Two Rivers NWR** (formerly Brussels District)

**Port Louisa NWR** (formerly Wapello District)

**Middle Mississippi River NWR**, also part of Mark Twain Complex, is currently unstaffed and has little management activity.

## Centennial Event Honors Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Volunteers

More than 50 people joined together on Feb. 28 to celebrate the many wonderful accomplishments of refuge volunteers in 2001.

A grand total of 259 people volunteered 4,815 hours in 2001 at a monetary value to the refuge of \$43,990.

Ranger Molly Stoddard entertained and educated volunteers with her "Countdown to the Centennial" program, featuring the Refuge System video, playing "Find the Refuge" using maps, and counting down the Top 10 reasons why we should care about refuges and the Centennial. Other events included the premiere showing of the new Horicon video.

Dan Bell, Terri Fuller, and Betty Flesch were honored with certificates of appreciation for their initiative and leadership in starting the Friends of Horicon NWR and serving as the first officers.

Harold and Nancy Steinback were named volunteers of the year. They worked a combined total of 216 hours. Their combined lifetime hours

total 512 hours since 1998.

Our first virtual volunteer, Kevin McIver of Florida, was named the individual who worked the most hours and was thanked via a surprise telephone call broadcast over the speaker. He worked 205 hours as our webmaster and newsletter writer.

Once again, the Beaver Dam Charter School was named the group that worked the most hours. A total of 88 people worked 1,529 hours, which means they set a new record once again! Local media attended and provided coverage of this event. *Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*



-USFWS Photo

Ranger Molly Stoddard with Harold and Nancy Steinback, Horicon's Volunteers of the Year

## Higgins' Eye Mussel Recovery Team Prepares for Spring Season

Members of the interagency Endangered Higgins' eye Mussel Recovery Team recently gathered at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery in a cooperative effort to assist station personnel in assembling host fish cages. Team members from several U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices and the states of Illinois and Minnesota worked together to frame and wire the cages.

These cages are vital to the Higgins' eye mussel recovery effort, as they will be the temporary homes for host fish that will be placed into the Mississippi River and its larger tributaries. These rivers are part of the historic range of Higgins' eye Pearlymussel and have been selected as part of a long-term restoration effort by state and federal agencies.

The fish will be artificially infested this spring with larval mussels which attach and parasitize their gills. Young mussels require a fish host to supply them food in their early life stages, until they are developed enough to drop off to the riverbed

and feed on their own. These fish also supply a free ride to the young mussels, to ensure some are dispersed over a wide range of available habitats.

Results from this years program will be evaluated in the fall of 2002 when the cages are removed and juvenile Higgins' eyes are harvested by project personnel.

Results from initial operations carried out in the summer of 2001 show promise with hundreds of juvenile mussels produced from four assessed cages.

Higgins' eye mussels are on the Federal Endangered Species List, as they have been eliminated and suffered significant population reductions over a large part of their native range. Some of the factors leading to their decline are, zebra mussel infestations on adult mussels, changes in suitable habitats, and marginal water quality due to pollution, and siltation.

*Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

## Ground-Nesting Bird Workshop Held

The Minnesota Waterfowl Association in cooperation with Region 3 of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conducted a two-day workshop which updated participants on the current state of knowledge about the impacts of predation on ground-nesting birds and the effectiveness of various predator management techniques.

Over 115 state, federal, and private organization biologists attended the workshop. The general conclusion was that predator management is not a substitute for habitat protection and management, but it can increase nesting success in situations where habitat is good but nesting success is at unacceptably low levels due to predation. It remains unclear how the majority of society views predator removal for the purpose of enhancing populations of hunted species. *Steve Wilds, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

## Grassland Improvement Program at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge is For the Birds

Horicon NWR is removing fence line trees from upland sites in an ongoing effort to improve grassland habitat.

In January 2002, a total of 3,731 linear feet of fence line trees were removed. The fence line trees create barriers between grassland fields and between the grasslands and marsh areas, fragmenting habitat for nesting upland birds.

Many grassland birds prefer larger continuous blocks for nest-

ing. In addition, the wooded fence lines create habitat for predators and brown-headed cowbirds which in turn decrease nesting success for grassland birds.

The trees were piled and have been sold as firewood.

*Diane Penttila, Horicon NWR*

Grassland birds such as the goldfinch will benefit from the habitat management at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

- USFWS Illustration by Louis Fuertes





## Rydell National Wildlife Refuge Ready for People and Wildlife

Rydell National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Minnesota recently completed two projects that has the refuge ready for 2002.

Staff and volunteers from the University of Minnesota at Crookston have completed the review and maintenance of existing waterfowl nest structures located on the refuge. "New" grass was installed in all the over water waterfowl nest structure and the 150 nesting boxes were inspected and additional wood chips were installed as necessary. Data on use will be compiled at a later date.

A new addition was also completed at the refuge's visitor center. The addition provides two large restroom facilities for public use, a small storage area, and a small kitchenette area for use when serving refreshments at programs. The newly expanded restrooms replace the single unisex restroom. The new storage room allows us to remove the extra chairs and tables for the visitors center area, greatly increasing our display area potential. With the new room now available, our Friends Association has initiated a contract with a local taxidermist for nine mounts for display in the center, including a bobcat and a fisher.

*Rick Julian, Rydell NWR*

## Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Opens Its Doors To Snowmobilers

This is the first year that the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery in Elmira, Mich., has officially opened its' doors to snowmobilers. The hatchery is located in the middle of the Jordan River Valley, right along the Jordan River snowmobile trail. In cooperation with the local snowmobile clubs, signs were placed on the trail leading to the hatchery, a section of the fence was removed, and part of the parking lot was left unplowed for sleds.

The visitors center, hot beverage center and restrooms are open 24 hours a day for snowmobilers. Hot cocoa, tea and coffee was donated by local businesses, snowmobile clubs and hatchery staff.

Over 1,000 packets of hot cocoa were donated by the East Jordan Snowmobile Club and the Boyne City Glen's Market. Recently the hatchery also received a \$100

donation from the Charlevoix Snowmobile Club for the beverage center.

The hatchery's visitor center log book is full of "thank you's," "great idea" and other comments of support for opening the hatchery for snowmobilers. It is estimated 1,000 snowmobilers have visited the hatchery since late December 2001, most of whom would have not otherwise stopped at the hatchery.

The hatchery is using this opportunity to educate visitors about the mission of the hatchery and the Service. In addition, during normal hours, tours are available which highlight the Service's lake trout restoration efforts in the Great Lakes. *Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

## Blue Goose Gets a Face-Lift to Celebrate 99th Birthday

Thanks to Seney NWR Maintenance Worker Terry Papple, the Blue Goose is once again looking good and flying high over Seney National Wildlife Refuge. Papple, who has worked on the refuge since 1971, originally constructed the over-sized blue goose wooden templates early in his career. He designed them to fit on all four sides of a fire tower that stands next to the Refuge Headquarters.

Back in the 1970's, Papple didn't think of what he did as anything special. He says it was "...just something we did - like putting up signs - no big thing."

In honor of the upcoming National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial, Papple spruced up the tower geese by giving them a new blue and white paint job. Temporary Bio. Tech. Josh Martindale gave him a hand when it was time to put the geese back up in the air. *Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR*



*-USFWS Photo*

The blue goose, symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System, flies proudly over Seney NWR, thanks to Refuge Maintenance Worker Terry Papple and Bio. Tech. Josh Martindale

## Outreach Planning Continues for Wolf Reclassification



-USFWS Photo

The Service will soon issue a final decision on the proposal to reclassify gray wolf populations.

Region 3 is currently drafting a final rule that will explain the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision on the various actions that were proposed in our July 2000 proposal to reclassify and delist the gray wolf. The draft will need concurrence from all the affected regions (regions 1-6) and the final decision will be made by the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

An outreach plan and all outreach materials must be reviewed and approved along with the final rule. Region 3 has lead responsibility for coordinating the outreach package.

Based on the decisions recommended in the draft final rule, a draft outreach plan has been developed

and circulated to other regions involved in the reclassification.

Follow-up information on the planning effort, including a map and draft summary of the final rule, have also been distributed to other regions to help with their efforts in updating outreach materials.

The development of useful and accurate outreach materials, which clearly explain the Service's intentions to the public and our partners, are critical to the successful announcement of decisions.

*Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

## Northern Wisconsin Wetland Team - Habitat Restoration Partnership

The 2001 field season was another successful year for the Northern Wisconsin Wetland Team. Twenty-two wetland and stream projects were completed in the four county region consisting of Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Iron counties, all of which border Lake Superior.

The Northern Wisconsin Wetland Team is a multi-agency partnership which began in 1997 with an operational agreement between the counties, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Ashland Field Office and the US Fish and Wildlife Service - Ashland Fishery Resources Office. Ducks Unlimited joined later with restoration project financial assistance.

This successful partnership implements long range wetland, riparian and stream habitat development programs. Each organization remains independent and has its own responsibilities, but has recognized the need and desire to coordinate as

a local, state and federal partnership for effective delivery of fish and wildlife habitat development.

The partnership area consists of some of the most unique wetland systems in the United States.

One example is the 16,000-acre Kakagon Slough, the largest estuary system remaining in the upper Great Lakes. It has been designated as a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Species such as grey wolves, bald eagles, American black ducks and coaster brook trout rely on the region's wetland, stream and riparian areas for their survival.

Project evaluation and planning is underway for the 2002 field season with many new and exciting projects. Specific areas in which the team is taking a special interest for the upcoming season are woodland and ephemeral wetland restoration. These historically important sites host an amazing variety of wildlife including the four-toed salamander

and pickerel frog which are Wisconsin species of special concern. With these and other wetland, riparian and stream projects falling into place, the partners look forward to another successful field season of fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects. *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*



-USFWS Photo

The team's King/Coda Project involved three agencies and resulted in six acres of restored and protected wildlife habitat.



## Cooperative Habitat Project is a Boost for Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife

The first phase of construction on a Mississippi River habitat project designed to benefit migratory birds, fish and water quality is completed. This project is located on several islands that make up the Long Island Division of the Great River National Wildlife Refuge just a few miles north of Quincy, Ill. The project is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the refuge, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

This group of islands provides important habitat for many species of birds that migrate along the river each spring and fall. Almost 5,900 acres of this island complex is comprised of mature bottomland forest, making this one of the largest and most important forested areas along the Mississippi River south of the Quad Cities. The islands also provide important fish habitat by slowing and creating eddies in the river current.

Many fish use these areas for spawning, feeding or resting. The small channels between many of these islands, with their deep water and reduced current, also provide critical winter habitat for fish. All of these important habitat values have been continually declining for many decades due to bankline erosion that results in the loss of trees and



-USFWS Photo

Several projects at Great River NWR (formerly Annada District of the Mark Twain NWR) will help protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat near Quincy, Ill.

threatens to completely destroy many small islands. Associated sedimentation has resulted in the loss of many deep water areas.

During the first year of work, five small islands were protected from further erosion by placing a layer of heavy rock along their upstream banks. Second, to provide slow, deep water for fish during the critical winter months, a 6,000-foot-long, six-foot deep channel was dredged in O'Dell Chute between Long Island and Flannigan Island. To protect this channel from heavy sedimentation, a rock closing structure, similar to a low dam, was constructed across the upstream mouth of the channel. This structure should reduce the amount of sand and other sediments

that enters the channel.

Finally, 20 acres of young trees were planted in the last remaining field on Long Island. The types of trees were carefully selected for their high value to wildlife. A new method of growing these young trees has been developed which allows them to grow much faster and produce nuts and fruits after just a few year's growth. Over the next two years, an additional 40 acres of trees will be planted. Together, these measures will help protect and restore very important river habitats for fish and for birds on the Great River National Wildlife Refuge.

*Dave Ellis, Great River NWR*

## Mingo Maintenance Staff Lends a Hand to Corps of Engineers Project

The Mingo National Wildlife Refuge maintenance staff assisted the Lake Wappapello U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff clean and repair their spillway on Mar. 6 - 7.

Bulldozers and back-hoes were first lowered down the spill-way's steep walls. Once in the bottom of the spill-way, boulders and rocks were rearranged or removed for

better water flow. The Corps completed safety checks and cement repair. The project took two full days. When completed, the heavy equipment had to be "lifted" back out. Mingo Heavy Equipment Operators, Doug Siler and Rudy Williams, guided and pulled the bulldozers and back-hoes straight up the spill-way banks using other heavy equipment and

dump trucks. Maintenance Mechanic Ray Placher oversaw the operation, ensuring safety and checking cables.

A team effort between the Corps and the refuge made the project possible. Both the Refuge and the Corps look forward to being able to call upon each other for help in the future. *Molly Mehl, Mingo NWR*

## Shiawassee Refuge Hosts Workshop for Local Nature Center Staff

Chippewa Nature Center, located in Midland, Mich., recently contacted the staff at Green Point Environmental Learning Center (part of the Shiawassee NWR) to set up a workshop for their staff. The goal of this workshop was to expose nature center employees to all that Shiawassee NWR has to offer.

Visitors to the Chippewa Nature Center often ask what opportunities the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge offers. However, only a few

staff from the nature center have actually visited the refuge and most times all they had to offer was a brochure.

On Feb. 20, 2002, 28 staff members from the nature center attended a workshop designed to help solve this problem. Secretaries, maintenance workers, naturalists and volunteers made up the group. In the morning, four refuge staff people provided guided tours of the refuge. In the afternoon, the nature center staff could choose between sessions

dealing with visitor services or biological issues.

Refuge staff received many positive comments about the workshop. Chippewa Nature Center staff were impressed with our ecosystem management and the amount of outreach we do with such a small staff. It was a very worthwhile workshop for all involved.

*Becky Goche Shiawassee NWR*

## Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between Feb. 10 and Mar. 8, 2002. Employees can search reports using the Report Manager utility in the ARS.

Web Page Presentation for the MH/TGP Ecosystem Team

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

Ashland FRO uses publication to provide technical information for tribal hatcheries

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

Mussel Recovery Team assembles host fish cages for spring season

*Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

Diversity Report

*Dale Bast, Iron River NFH*

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Volunteer Programs Scores

*Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Opens Its Doors To Snowmobilers

*Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Tank Room Gets Needed Improvements

*Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

Northern Wisconsin Wetland Team - An Established and Successful Habitat Restoration Partnership

*Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*

Missouri Couple, Arkansas Man Plead Guilty to Illegal Trafficking of Tigers

*Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team to meet in the Bahamas

*Mike DeCapita, East Lansing FO*

Grassland Improvement Program at Horicon NWR is For the Birds

*Diane Penttila, Horicon NWR*

Hydropower Project Gathering Strengthens Federal/State Partnerships

*Laura Ragan, External Affairs*

Habitat and Public Use Improvements at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

*Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR*

Service partners with Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to assess walleye populations

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

Outreach Planning-Wolf Reclassification

*Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

Shiawassee NWR Hosts Workshop for Local Nature Center Staff

*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*

Predation and Ground-nesting Birds Workshop Held

*Steve Wilds, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

National Conference Nets Tangible Results

*Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR*

Restoration Project Ideas Generated for Kalamazoo River

*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*

Detroit Lakes WMD Develops Plant Taxonomic Key for 4th Graders

*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*

Significance of waterbird bycatch in the Midwest assessed

*Bob Russell, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

Great Backyard Bird Count at DeSoto Refuge

*Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*

DeSoto Refuge Honors Its Volunteers

*Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*

Annual Career Day for Northland College Students

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

Region Begins Student Recruitment Effort at UW-Stevens Point  
*Dan Stinnett, Twin Cities FO*

Green Bay FRO Biologist nominated to serve on Great Lakes Fishery Commission Review Panel  
*Charles Bronte, Green Bay FRO*

Federal Aid Project Leaders Training in Illinois  
*Mike Sweet, Federal Aid*

A Boost for Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife  
*Dave Ellis, Great River NWR*

Local Service Activities and Opportunities Highlighted at La Crosse Outdoors Show  
*Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge adds 140 acres  
*Cathy Henry, UMRNW&FR-McGregor Dist.*

East Lansing Field Office Expands Recruitment Efforts  
*Christopher Mensing, East Lansing FO*

East Lansing Field Office participates in College Jobs Fair  
*Barbara Hosler, East Lansing FO*  
Budget Tracking System  
*William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)*

Ashland FRO Fish Passage Initiatives  
*Lee Newman, Ashland FRO*

La Crosse FRO and UMR Refuge - La Crosse District host volunteer banquet  
*Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

Ongoing Ruffe Winter Diet Study  
*Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO*

Endangered Pallid Sturgeon Arrive at the Neosho Hatchery  
*David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

Headwaters/Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem team has successful meeting  
*Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

Rydell Visitor Center Addition Ready to Use  
*Rick Julian, Rydell NWR*

Michigan State Students Learn about the Service  
*Christopher Mensing, East Lansing FO*

Budget and Finance Office Updates Information on Intranet  
*William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)*

Minnesota Valley NWR Recruits for Summer Temporary Positions  
*Tom Kerr, Minnesota Valley NWR*

Sherburne NWR Participates in Land-owners Workshop  
*Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*

Great Lakes Stations Host Display at Michigan Outdoorama  
*Becky Goche, Shianwassee NWR*

Service Stations Join Forces for Outdoorama  
*Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO*

Service Releases Draft EIS on Resident Canada Geese  
*Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*

DL WMD's Long-standing Easement Case is One Step Closer to Resolution  
*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*

Sherburne and Crane Meadows Refuge Volunteers Honored  
*Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*

CSG Customer Service Survey implemented  
*John Herron, ABA (CSG)*

Credit Card Program  
*William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)*

Ashland FRO Web Page Updated  
*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

Rydell Refuge Nest Structures Revitalized for the 2002 Nesting Season  
*Rick Julian, Rydell NWR*

Mingo Maintenance Staff Lends a Hand to the Neighboring U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project  
*Molly Mehl, Mingo NWR*

New Hunter Education Grant approved for Minnesota  
*Julie Morin, Federal Aid*



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Region 3**  
**Office of External Affairs**  
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